

REMARKS

The present response amends claims 1-2 and 9-16, adds new claims 17-18 and requests reconsideration of the rejected claims.

The acknowledgement of the claim for priority is appreciated. A certified copy of the priority document was filed on March 13, 2003, following receipt of the Office Action.

Claims 1-2 are amended to recite that the "coating composition comprises more than 70% by weight solids," as disclosed in the specification, e.g., page 1.

New claims 17-18 are added to cover the methods of applying the coating composition as a finish and/or primer coating, as disclosed in the specification, e.g., pages 12-14.

Claims 9-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, for omitting method steps. These claims are rewritten herein to cover the same subject matter originally claimed without reciting a "method." Specifically, instead of reciting a method of using the claimed coating compositions as a finish coating and/or primer coating, the claims now recite a finish coating and/or primer coating comprising the claimed coating compositions.

Claims 1, 2, 9, 10, 13 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) for allegedly being anticipated by Yamaki. Claims 3 and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) for allegedly being anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) for allegedly being unpatentable based on Yamaki. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

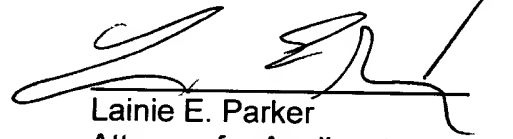
Anticipation requires that the reference disclose each and every element of the claimed invention. MPEP 2131. The claims recite that the "coating composition comprises more than 70% by weight solids." Yamaki does not teach or suggest a

high solids coating composition, as claimed. Instead, Yamaki discloses coating compositions having a solids content of only 20%. Col. 21, ll. 27-33. Accordingly, Yamaki cannot anticipate nor make obvious the claimed invention.

With respect to claims 3 and 4, it is further noted that the product is not inherently the same as that in Yamaki, because the claimed product has more than 70% by weight solids, which is not taught or suggested by Yamaki.

It is also submitted that Nambu does not anticipate and/or suggest the claimed invention.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lainie E. Parker', is written over a horizontal line.

Lainie E. Parker
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No.: 36,123

Akzo Nobel Inc.
Intellectual Property Dept.
7 Livingstone Avenue
Dobbs Ferry, NY 10522-3408
(914) 674-5466